## Mission Moment

A shepherd of shepherds, this is the role of a bishop in The United Methodist Church.

Bishops are charged with providing spiritual oversight and seeing to it that the church's practices fall within those guidelines set by General Conference.

A bishop's work includes leading, guiding and unifying the church. Not being an easy task, it takes someone who is able to act with compassion and wisdom to navigate a diverse group of people who are in the midst of several different ministry settings. This is of particular importance as bishops oversee clergy appointments in areas they serve.

Bishops play an important role in keeping The United Methodist Church united. The work they do is vital at all levels in allowing us to continue in ministry together for the transformation of the world. While pastors are supported by local church giving, bishops are supported by our apportionments by our generous giving to the Episcopal Fund. Our gifts allow the important work of the bishops to continue.

We lift up those who have taken on the task of guiding our church and may their load be light. Grant that we, the church, generously care for those who have answered the call to care for us.